
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NEWS RELEASE

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CHAIRMAN HOECKER ON WHITE HOUSE RECESS APPOINTMENT

Chairman James J. "Jim" Hoecker of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission said today he was honored to receive President Clinton's recess appointment that will enable him to continue his work on the Commission. The President also re-designated him as Chairman.

Chairman Hoecker commented: "I am very thankful to President Clinton for this additional opportunity to help shape the energy future of the Nation, particularly at this moment of unanticipated energy price spikes. I am also grateful to my fellow Commissioners and the Commission's staff for their tremendous contributions to that effort and for their counsel and support, without which any Chairman would be cut adrift. This is a challenging moment for this agency, however. Energy prices and the prospect of a lengthy transition to electricity competition are matters of national concern. We must therefore redouble our efforts to secure for consumers the benefits of the new energy economy. To quote Lincoln: 'As our case is new, so we must think anew, and act anew.' In that spirit, I look forward to continuing in public service."

The President can fill vacancies during the recess of the Senate by making appointments which last until the end of the next Senate session.

Chairman Hoecker was nominated to another five-year term by President Clinton in November of last year but the Senate took no action on the nomination. His term expired June 30 but the Commission's governing statutes nevertheless permitted him to serve until the end of the current session of Congress.

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He has served as a Commissioner since 1993 and was reappointed to a five-year term in 1995. He has served as Chairman since 1997. During his chairmanship, Chairman Hoecker has promoted wholesale electric competition through the development of regional transmission organizations, modernization of natural gas regulatory policies, interagency coordination to improve the hydroelectric relicensing process at the Commission, and an agency-wide reengineering to make Commission processes more efficient, market responsive, and customer-oriented. The Chairman stated that, among his primary objectives, has been the adaptation and enhancement of the Commission's regulatory role in the new, competitive energy economy and the improvement of professional opportunities for its staff.

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